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Message Text

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42
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 SSO-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 /044 W
---------- 123300
O R 131320Z JUL 76
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4869
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0895

PASS TO OPERATIONSS CENTER

E.O. 11652: N/

TAGS: CASC, GR, SQN

SUBJECT: W/W: AMCIT WILLIAM GRANT VAN STRATTON

REF: MACFARLANE/LUCIUS TELCON, JULY 13

1. GOMCONGEN OFF INTERVIEWD VAN STRATTON, WHO ARRIVED DHAHRAN FROM ATHENS JULY 12. AMCIT REPORTS HE SPOKE TO WIFE ON TELEPHONE AT 6AM LOCAL TIME JULY 13 ASWELL AS BROTHER ABOUT 30 MINUTES LATER AND HE "CAN'T UNDERSTAND" WHY SHE REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS CONDITION. VAN STRATTON STATES HE HAPPY TO BE HERE AND EAGER TO GET TO WORK.

2. INCIDENT IN ATHENS , ACCORDING TO VAN STRATTON, WHO HAS NEVER BEEN OVERSEAS BEFORE, BEGAN WHEN HE MISSED HIS JULY 10 FLIGHT TO DHAHRAN AFTER SWISSAIR FLIGHT ON WHICH HE WAS TRAVELING MISSED CONNECTIONS WITH KLM FLIGHT. WITH ABOUT $10 IN HIS POSSESSION HE ELECTED TO REMAIN IN ATHENS AIRPORT TERMINAL UNTIL HE COULD OBTAIN SEAT ON NEXT AVAILABLE FLIGHT TO DHAHRAN. AMCIT REMAINED IN AIRPORT DEPARTURE LOUNGE WHILING AWAY HIS TIME, ACCORDING TO HIS STATISTICS, CONSUMING "THREE BEERS, TWO COKES , ANDONE CANDY BAR." LATE THE MORNING OF JULY 11 (ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME CONFUSION
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IN VAN STRATTON'S MIND AS TO THE TIME THAT FOLLOWS ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE) AIRPORT AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY MISTOOK HIM FOR VAGRANT AND HE MISTOOK THEIR INTENTIONS WHEN THEY BEGAIN TO INVESTIGATE. IN PROCESS OF TAKING HIM INTO CUSTODY AND HOLDING HIM IN CUSTODY, HE RAN AWAY TWICE FROM POLICE. CONFUSED AND BADLY FRIGHTENED BY INCIDENT, HE CLAIMS THAT HE OVERHEARD GREEK AUTHORITIES SAYING THEY WERE GOING TO SHOOT HIM. EVENTUALLY GREEK AUTHORITIES RELEASED HIM AND EMBASSY ATHENS, ARRANGED LODGING AND AIRLINE RESERVATION ATHENS/ DHAHRAN.

3. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ASSURE VAN STRATTON'S FAMILY THAT HE APPEARS

TO BE IN GOOD HELATH AND, WHILE CONFUSED BY HIS SOJOURN IN ATHENS, FULLY RECOVERED FROM INCIDENT. HE PLANS TO REMAIN IN NEARBY ALKHOBAR AND WORK FOR AMERICAN COMPANY. HIS ONLY CONCERN IS THAT HIS WIFE IS WORRYING UNNECESSARILY ABOUT HIM.

4. FOR ATHENS: BACKGROUND TO REQUEST FOR REPORT PROVIDED ABOVE IS THAT WHEN VAN STRATTON TELEPHONED TO US TO REPORT HIS SAFE ARRIVAL IN SAUDI ARABIA TO HIS WIFE, MRS. VAN STRATTON BECAME CONCERNED ABOUT

HER HUSBAND AND URGED HIM TO RETURN TO US. LATER IN HER ANXIETY, SHE CALLED WHITE HOUSE ABOUT 1 AM JULY 12 AND SHE WAS REFERRED TO DEPT'S OPERATIONS
CENTER WHO REFERRED MATTER TO CONGEN.
LUCIUS

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